

Appl. No. : 10/525,313
Amdt. Dated: August 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 19, 2007

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

AUG 20 2007

AMENDMENTS

To the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Evaporation apparatus comprising:

- a base portion, side portions and an upper portion all of which are formed from fluid impervious flexible materials and define an evaporation chamber that is inflatable;
- a gas introduction port by which gas may enter the chamber and a gas release port by which gas leaves the chamber;
- fluid flow control means for controlling the introduction of gas to the chamber via the gas introduction port and release of gas [[to]] from the chamber via the gas release port to control the inflation of the chamber;
- wherein in use the inflated chamber is adapted for containing a volume of liquid in a pool wherein the base and side portions define a fluid impervious region which in use surrounds a volume of liquid which forms a pool at a base thereof of the apparatus to be evaporated and carried out of the chamber as a vapour by the gas passing across the pool; and
- wherein the gas release port is located above the level of liquid in the pool.

2. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fluid flow control means is used to control the gas pressure and the flow rate of gas within the chamber.

3. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fluid flow control means includes a fan for introducing gas into the evaporation chamber, the fan sealably positionable at a hole made in a wall of the chamber.

4. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein the fan is a variable speed fan.

Appl. No. : 10/525,313

Amdt. Dated: August 20, 2007

Reply to Office Action of March 19, 2007

5. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fluid flow control means also includes an outlet pressure release valve via which gas is released from the chamber, the valve sealably positionable at a hole formed in the wall of the chamber.
6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fluid flow control means is arranged to substantially prevent the ingress of a diluent liquid other than the liquid to be evaporated into the chamber.
7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the evaporation chamber is an enclosure made of a flexible wall material.
8. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the flexible wall material comprises a single layer only of said material.
9. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the enclosure is made of a plastic material.
10. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the evaporation chamber is self-supporting in the inflatable state.
11. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the evaporation chamber in the inflatable state is arranged with a shape suitable for preventing the build up of a second fluid on the outer surface of the chamber.
12. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the evaporation chamber is elongate and tubular in shape.
13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the liquid to be evaporated can be introduced into the enclosure in a batchwise or a continuous manner via a liquid introduction port located in the exterior of the enclosure.
14. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the vapour released from the chamber is condensed by a condenser means located external of the evaporation apparatus.

Appl. No. : 10/525,313

Amdt. Dated: August 20, 2007

Reply to Office Action of March 19, 2007

15. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the condenser means comprises a pipe which is arranged external of the evaporation apparatus for condensing of the vapour.
16. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein the gas in the pipe can be reintroduced into the chamber.
17. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the evaporation apparatus is adapted to be floated on a body of liquid.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)